

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ID
SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN - NO. 3

REF: JAKARTA 3089

SUMMARY: GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS NOW IN FULL SWING, WITH LARGE CROWDS AT RALLIES AND SPEECHES. SOME INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT OR INTIMIDATION HAVE BEEN REPORTED BUT GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IS CALM. ADMIRAL SUDOMO ANNOUNCED THAT PARTY LEADERS HAD AGREED NOT TO REPORT INCIDENTS TO PRESS BUT TO HANDLE THEM THROUGH SPECIAL FORUMS. USE OF RELIGION IN CAMPAIGN IS SHAPING UP AS ONLY MAJOR ISSUE SO FAR. END SUMMARY.

1. GOLKAR, PPP, AND PDI HAVE STAGES SERIES OF MAJOR POLITICAL RALLIES IN VARIOUS CITIES, WITH SOME CROWDS ESTIMATED AT UP TO 80,000. GOLKAR "SAFARI" TRAVELLING ENTERTAINMENT TROUPES ARE ACTIVE IN SEVERAL AREAS, LITERALLY GIVING THE PUBLIC THE OLD SONG AND DANCE. FOREIGN MINISTER ADAM MALIK HAS TAKEN TWO MONTH'S LEAVE TO CAMPAIGN FOR GOLKAR (ALTHOUGH HE WILL CONTINUE TO PERFORM MORE IMPORTANT MINISTERIAL DUTIES). HE BEGAN EIGHT-DAY STINT IN NORTH SUMATRA WHERE HE IS A CANDIDATE. BY HIS
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OWN ADMISSION MALIK HAD NOT MET WITH THE PEOPLE OF THAT PROVINCE FOR LAST FIVE YEARS, BUT HIS CAMPAIGN IS EMPHASIZING DEVELOPMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THAT PERIOD.

2. KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO ANNOUNCED MARCH 15 THAT LEADERS OF ALL THREE PARTIES HAD AGREED NOT TO REPORT CAMPAIGN INCIDENTS IN PRESS BUT RATHER TO SUBMIT COMPLAINTS

TO SPECIAL REGIONAL FORUMS SET UP TO SETTLE ELECTION PROBLEMS. UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA STUDENT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN DIP ALAM PUBLICLY URGED ALL STUDENTS AND YOUTH TO VOTE FOR PPP OR PDI IN INTERESTS OF DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL EDUCATION. CAMPAIGNING HAS BEEN BANNED ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES.

3. SEVERAL CAMPAIGN INCIDENTS GOT PRESS ATTENTION DURING THE PAST WEEK. PHYSICAL CLASH MARCH 11 IN MANADO BETWEEN PDI CAMPAIGNERS AND GOLKAR SUPPORTERS WAS REPORTEDLY PROVOKED BY PDI PROPAGANDA SLOGANS CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT. SOME INJURIES WERE REPORTED BUT NO DEATHS. ADMIRAL SUDOMO AND PPP LEADERS AGREED TO SEND JOINT TEAM TO INVESTIGATE FEB. 27 SHOOTING INCIDENT IN SITUBONDO, EAST JAVA. INTERIOR MINISTER AMIRMACHMUD ORDERED SOUTH SULAWESI GOVERNOR TO PERMIT PARTIES TO CAMPAIGN IN ALL DISTRICTS, WITH NO "PARTY FREE" AREAS PERMITTED. PDI LEADERS COMPLAINED THAT THEIR CAMPAIGNING WAS HARASSED BY CERTAIN PERSONS IN NINE PROVINCES. SOME PDI WORKERS IN BALI WERE REPORTEDLY CHASED OUT OF THEIR HOME TOWN, AND PDI POSTERS WERE TORN DOWN IN NORTH SUMATRA DISTRICTS. CHAIRMAN OF ULAMA COUNCIL OF PEKALONGAN, EAST JAVA, AN ACTIVE PPP CAMAIGNER, HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN DETAINED WITHOUT WARRANT IN SEMARANG, CENTRAL JAVA, SINCE MARCH 11. PPP COMMISSIONER FROM JOGJAKARTA DISTRICT ALSO REPORTED HELD AT KODAM HEAD-QUARTERS IN SEMARANG.

4. COMMENT: MAJOR ISSUE OF CAMPAIGN, IF ANY REALLY EXISTS SO FAR, IS WHETHER DEVOUT MUSLIMS MUST SUPPORT PPP AS RELIGIOUS DUTY. SOME PPP LEADERS HAVE INFERRED THAT ONLY AN INFIDEL WOULD CHOOSE ANYTHING BUT THE KA'BAH SYMBOL. GOLKAR HAS BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOUDLY CHALLENGING THIS IDEA, EMPHASIZING IN ITS CAMPAIGNING THAT MANY GOOD MUSLIMS ARE GIVING THEIR SUPPORT TO GOLKAR. GOVERNMENT CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE IS REFLECTED BY LIGHTLY VEILED THREAT OF INTERIOR MINISTER MARCH 16 THAT AS A MUSLIM HE WOULD NOT ALLOW ISLAMACI TEACHINGS TO BE DISTORTED AND WOULD NOT APPROVE OF AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN THAT DEGRADES ISLAMIC LAW. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SOME ULAMAS WHO CAMPAIGN FOR PPP MIGHT ACTUALLY BE PKI MEMBERS - A RIDICULOUS CHARGE BUT POSSIBLY AN EFFECTIVE INTIMIDATION. NEWSOM

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Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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